

REMARKS

In view of the following discussion, the Applicants submit that none of the claims now pending in the application are unpatentable under the provisions of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Thus, the Applicants believe that all of the remaining claims are now in allowable form.

I. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-2, 4-6, 9-10 AND 12 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 103

The Examiner rejected claims 1-2, 4-6, 9-10 and 12 in the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being un-patentable over Gillespie (U.S. Patent 6,823,048, issued on November 23, 2004, hereinafter referred to as "Gillespie"), in view of Chan et al. (U.S. Patent 5,764,745, issued on June 9, 1998, hereinafter referred to as "Chan") in further view of Lewis et al. (U.S. Patent 6,532,490, issued on March 11, 2003, hereinafter referred to as "Lewis"). The Applicants respectfully traverse the rejection.

Gillespie teaches calling name information caching. Gillespie teaches that if information is not found in the local database that the network queries a remote database. (See Gillespie, col. 3, ll. 33-47).

Chan teaches local number portability using non-geographical subscriber numbers. (See Chan, Abstract).

Lewis teaches reducing the number of queries to a foreign network element. (See Lewis, Abstract, Column 7, Line 11 - Column 10, Line 63).

The Examiner's attention is directed to the fact that Gillespie, Chan and Lewis, alone or in any permissible combination, fail to teach or suggest a method, apparatus or a system or computer readable medium for acquiring caller-specific information comprising querying a remote database if the caller-specific information is not found in the local cache, wherein the querying the remote database is performed by the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call, as positively claimed by the Applicants. For example, Applicants' claims 1, 9 and 12 positively recite:

1. A method for acquiring caller-specific information, said method comprising:
receiving a call for completion from a calling party;
querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;
obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache;
forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call; and
querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache, wherein said querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call. (Emphasis added).

9. An apparatus for acquiring caller-specific information, said apparatus comprising:
means for receiving a call for completion from a calling party;
means for querying a local cache for caller-specific information associated with said calling party;
means for obtaining said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache;
means for forwarding said caller-specific information to complete said call; and
means for querying a remote database if said caller-specific information is not found in said local cache, wherein said means for querying said remote database is performed by said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying said call. (Emphasis added).

12. A system for acquiring caller-specific information, said system comprising:
a local cache for querying a remote database if caller-specific information is not found in said local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying a call; and
at least one switch for receiving said call for completion from a calling party, wherein said at least one switch queries said local cache for said caller-specific information associated with said calling party, and wherein said at least one switch obtains said caller-specific information from said local cache if said caller-specific information is found in said local cache and forwards said caller-specific information to complete said call. (Emphasis added).

In one embodiment, Applicants' teaching discloses a method, apparatus or a system for acquiring caller-specific information comprising querying a remote database if the caller-specific information is not found in the local cache, wherein

the querying the remote database is performed by the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call. For example, the local cache may query the remote database via a signaling network and not the communication network. (See e.g., Applicants' specification, para. [0021]; FIG. 1).

Gillespie only teaches that if the calling number is not in the local cache that the telecommunication network queries a remote database for calling name information. (See Gillespie, col. 3, ll. 33-47). In other words, the same telecommunication network that carries the call also queries the remote database in Gillespie. In stark contrast, the Applicants' disclosure teaches querying a remote database if the caller-specific information is not found in the local cache, wherein the querying the remote database is performed by the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call. Thus, the Applicants' disclosure advantageously avoids adding additional traffic and consuming additional bandwidth of the communication network for caller information queries. Moreover, the Applicants' teaching avoids over burdening the processing power of switches in the communication network by allowing the local cache to perform the remote database query. This teaching is clearly absent in Gillespie.

In the Office Action dated September 14, 2009, the Examiner conceded that Gillespie and Chan fail to teach or suggest querying a remote database if the caller-specific information is not found in a local cache, wherein the querying the remote database is performed by the local cache over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call. However, the Examiner alleges Lewis closes the significant gap left by Gillespie and Chan. The Applicants respectfully disagree.

Lewis is only concerned with adding data obtained from a foreign network into a local cache to reduce the number of queries to a foreign network element. (See Lewis, Abstract, Column 7, Line 11 - Column 10, Line 63). The Examiner alleges Figures 1-3 of Lewis show a separate PSTN. However, it appears that the Intelligent Network Element (INE) does not use the PSTN to obtain the data.

Contrary to the Examiner's assertion, the database 26 is shown outside the PSTN network 18. In fact, Lewis fails to teach or suggest the database 26 being accessed via the PSTN. In contrast, the Applicants' disclosure teaches the local cache querying over a signaling network different from a communication network carrying the call. The Applicants' disclosure advantageously avoids adding additional traffic and consuming additional bandwidth of the communication network for caller information queries. Therefore, Lewis fails to close the significant gap left by Gillespie and Chan. Thus, the combination of Gillespie, Chan and Lewis fails to make obvious the Applicants' independent claims 1, 9 and 12.

In addition, dependent claims 2, 4-6 and 10 depend from independent claims 1 and 9, respectively, and recite additional limitations. As such, and for the exact same reason set forth above, the Applicants submit that claims 2, 4-6, and 10 are also patentable over Gillespie, Chan and Lewis. Thus, the Applicants respectfully request the rejection to be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Thus, the Applicants submit that all of these claims now fully satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. § 103. Consequently, the Applicants believe that all these claims are presently in condition for allowance. Accordingly, both reconsideration of this application and its swift passage to issue are earnestly solicited.

If, however, the Examiner believes that there are any unresolved issues requiring the issuance of a final action in any of the claims now pending in the application, it is requested that the Examiner telephone Mr. Kin-Wah Tong, Esq. at (732) 842-8110 x130 so that appropriate arrangements can be made for resolving such issues as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

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